



Southern Plains Farm Labor Report

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This report contains the results from the April 2015 Farm Labor Survey collected during the last two weeks of April. Respondents were asked the number of hired workers, hours worked and wages for the January and April 2015 reference weeks. Estimates for the Southern Plains region were made possible by data provided by respondents in Oklahoma and Texas. Our thanks to all who responded to the April 2015 Farm Labor Survey.

Southern Plains Highlights: There were 45,000 **workers hired** directly by farm operators on Southern Plains farms and ranches during the week of January 11-17, 2015, up 15 percent from the January 2014 reference week. Workers hired directly by farm operators totaled 53,000 for the week of April 12-18, 2015, up 8 percent from the April 2014 reference week.

Wage rates for hired workers in the Southern Plains during the January 2015 reference week averaged \$11.54 per hour, up 3 percent from a year earlier. For the April 2015 reference week, farm operators paid their hired workers an average of \$11.48, 8 percent above the April 2014 wage but down 1 percent from January 2015.

U.S. Highlights: There were 549,000 workers hired directly by farm operators on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of January 11-17, 2015, up 2 percent from the January 2014 reference week. Workers hired directly by farm operators numbered 687,000 for the reference week of April 12-18, 2015, down slightly from the April 2014 reference week.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$12.53 per hour during the January 2015 reference week, up 2 percent from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$11.40 per hour, up 3 percent, while livestock workers earned \$11.69 per hour compared with \$11.36 a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$11.52 per hour, was up 3 percent from last year. The number of hours worked averaged 39.2 for hired workers during the reference week, up 1 percent from January 2014.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$12.27 per hour during the April 2015 reference week, up 2 percent from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$11.34 per hour, up 3 percent from a year earlier. Livestock workers earned \$11.58, up 2 percent from last year. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$11.42 per hour, was up 3 percent from a year earlier. The number of hours worked averaged 39.9 for hired workers during the reference week, down slightly from April 2014.

Link to the full U.S. report: <http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/MannUsda/viewDocumentInfo.do?documentID=1063>

Hired Workers and Wage Rates, Southern Plains Region (Oklahoma and Texas)

[Excludes agricultural service workers]

Farm employment	January 12-18 2014	April 6-12 2014	July 6-12 2014	October 12-18 2014	January 11-17 2015	April 12-18 2015
	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)
Hired Workers						
150 days or more	31	37	42	42	34	40
149 days or less	8	12	17	13	11	13
Total	39	49	59	55	45	53
Hours worked by hired workers	37.4	37.7	37.0	38.6	40.5	40.2
Wage rate ¹						
Field and livestock combined	10.50	10.10	10.25	10.55	11.25	11.20
Field	10.29	9.75	10.15	10.61	11.60	11.27
Livestock	10.70	10.58	10.35	10.48	11.04	11.15
All hired workers	11.15	10.66	10.74	10.91	11.54	11.48

¹ Benefits, such as housing and meals, are provided to some workers but the values are not included in the wage rates.

Hired Workers and Wage Rates, United States

[Excludes agricultural service workers and Alaska]

Farm employment	January 12-18 2014	April 6-12 2014	July 6-12 2014	October 12-18 2014	January 11-17 2015	April 12-18 2015
	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)
Hired Workers						
150 days or more	459	558	583	561	458	545
149 days or less	81	132	255	221	91	142
Total	540	690	838	782	549	687
Hours worked by hired workers	38.9	40.1	40.5	41.3	39.2	39.9
Wage rate ¹						
Field and livestock combined	11.20	11.12	11.33	11.46	11.52	11.42
Field	11.10	11.02	11.36	11.52	11.40	11.34
Livestock	11.36	11.35	11.26	11.29	11.69	11.58
All hired workers	12.23	12.01	11.96	12.12	12.53	12.27

¹ Benefits, such as housing and meals, are provided to some workers but the values are not included in the wage rates.